BILL TO AID BRITAIN STRONGLY BACKED

Only 22% Are Unqualifiedly Against the Measure, Gallup Survey Finds

TIME LIMIT WINS FAVOR

Majority Sounded in Study Advocates Fixing Proposal at Two Years

A survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion indicates majority support throughout the nation for the lease-lend bill pending before Congress, according to a report yesterday by Dr. George Gallup, director of the institute. Fiftyfour per cent of those questioned, he said, declared in favor of the measure.

"As might be expected in the face of a question of such major importance in United States history, the pattern of the public's thinking is not entirely a matter of being 'for' or 'against' passage of the bill," Dr. Gallup wrote. "Many voters in the institute survey qualified their answers or favored modifications in the original draft—some of which have subsequently been adopted in the House version of the bill.

"Some of the men and women interviewed throughout the country attached such severe limitations to their approval that they could not be counted 'in favor' of the bill at all. And, of course, the survey uncovered significant differences in sentiment between different sections of the country and different political parties.

"Nevertheless, despite the number who offered qualified answers and those who were 'undecided' the survey finds 54 per cent definitely saying they think Congress should pass the bill now nationally known as H. R. 1776.

The lease-lend bill (H. R. 1776)

was introduced just one month ago, after two major policy addresses by President Roosevelt—one in a fireside chat Dec. 29 and the second in his speech to Congress on the 'State of the Nation' Jan. 6. For nearly two weeks after the bill was introduced the institute waited, letting the ordinary voter become a little more familiar with the bill's idea and program, and allowing opponents of the bill a chance to take their counter-arguments to the public.

Began Distributing Ballots

Then, just a fortnight ago, ballots were distributed to interviewers in selected representative areas in each of the forty-eight States. To a carefully selected cross-section of men and women who had heard of the bill (more than four in five had) the following question was put:

"'Do you thing Congress should pass the President's lease-lend bill?"

"The answers were:

National Vote

Yes	.54%
Qualified answers	
No	
Undecided	. 9

"About one voter in six attached a qualification to his answer, as these figures show. Some of the commonest qualifications were:

"'If it doesn't get us into war.'
"'If all that power can be limited some way.'

"'If the British give us some security for what we give them."

"'As long as we don't send our own ships over there."

"But perhaps the commonest reservation in the minds of American voters as the bill heads toward the Senate is some kind of 'time-limit.'

"Further evidence of this demand for a definite time-limit appears in a parallel question which the Institute put to the same voters: 'If Congress does pass the bill, should the powers which it grants to the President be given to him for as long as the war lasts, or for only a limited period of time, such as two years?'

"Fifty-six per cent said they favored a definite time-limit such as two years—a clause now part of the bill. Thirty-six per cent said the powers should be granted for as long as the war lasts," and the remaining 8 per cent expressed no opinion.

"It is apparent that even at this relatively early stage of the debate over H. R. 1776 the bill has the outright support of a majority. If only those with definite 'yeses' and definite 'noes' are considered, the majority for the bill approaches 2½ to 1. Yet it is possible that further modifications and concessions on the part of the Administration might substantially increase the number of persons approving the measure.

Democratic South in Lead

"Although separate tabulations and statistical 'breakdowns' for all sections of the country have not yet been completed for publication, it appears that the Democratic South will likely lead the rest of the country in support for the bill.

"Whether the balance will be tipped against the bill in particular sections like the traditionally isolationist Middle West—and especially in States like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas—remains to be seen as analysis of sectional returns is completed.

"But the survey does indicate something quite definite about party sentiment on the bill. Just as debate on the bill in the House has followed Democratic and Republican lines to a considerable extent, so the Democratic rank and file are far more heavily in support of the bill than the G. O. P.

"Despite these differences in intensity, however, majorities of those with definite opinions in both parties are revealed as favoring the bill's passage:

	Democrats Republican		
Favoring bill	69%	38%	
Qualified Answe	ers 10	23	
Opposing bill		30	
Undecided		9	

"It will be noted that approxmately twice as many Republicans offer qualified answers as do Democrats.

Reaction Held Consistent

"The public's reaction to the President's lease-lend bill is largely consistent with attitudes the average man has been expressing with growing emphasis over the past few months.

"1. There has been a growing belief that the United States should increase her aid to Britain, 'even at risk of war,' rather than concentrate entirely on keeping out. Sixtyeight per cent took this position in a recent institute survey.

"2. A similar majority (68 per cent) indicated a fortnight ago that they favored the idea of leasing war materials to Britain if Britain's ability to pay cash came to an end. This, of course, was a test on one of the basic principles of H. R. 1776, although not a test of strength for the bill itself.

"3. As reported a week ago, something like 71 per cent have come to the conclusion that American aid to Britain is more likely to prevent war for the United States in the long run than it is to draw us in.

"But this desire to increase American aid to England has not upset two other basic convictions held by the average American (1) that this country's own national defense preparations must be speeded up, and (2) that this country should not enter the war itself. In the latest of the institute's 'war index' surveys only 15 per cent of the voters with opinions on the question said they would vote to enter the war. Eighty-five per cent said 'no.'"